

FETCHAM U3A - VERY MUCH ALIVE AND KICKING!



I think we can say, without contradiction, that our U3A has made its mark in the Fetcham/Bookham areas. News of the visit by Black Rod certainly spread very quickly and I am sure we would have had many visitors if it had not been a members' ticket only event. Certainly I heard of several 'outsiders' who had endeavoured to get tickets by fair means or foul.

Those lucky enough to have attended were treated to a most interesting and informative talk – one dispensed with the utmost ease and affability by someone used to being 'a servant of the Queen'. The history of the post was interspersed with amusing anecdotes and I particularly liked the one of Lords tottering down the hill at Windsor Castle wearing silly hats. Having seen it on television over the years, it was not hard to visualise! We were the fortunate few, as Black Rod seldom gives interviews or talks and we were extremely privileged that he kept his promise to visit us.

The Quiz Night proved a very popular event and Bryan has already been persuaded to put together yet another battery of questions (easy ones, of course) for 2007. The choice of food was

well received and gave our talented 'food team' more time to participate in the evening's events.

There is no doubt that a good deal of enthusiasm runs through Fetcham U3A. The eagerness with which people arrive early to be sure of getting a seat at our monthly meetings is witness to the fact that we seem to be doing something right and the buzz and chatter during the tea break is a joy to hear. The Coffee Mornings for new members mean that they come into our U3A knowing something about us beforehand and also knowing other new members, which is important to them and to our continued success.

Our next social event is the Midsummer Strawberry Tea to be held at The Grange between 2 and 5 pm on Midsummer's Day - Saturday, 24th June. It should be a very happy occasion - with sparkling wine to start, and a tea of strawberries, scones, jam and cream, tea or coffee and with plenty to see, do and buy, what could be better? We are just sending up our fervent wishes for a sparkling day. Tickets will be on sale at the April monthly meeting at £5 each and, of course, there will be a raffle.

Our Associate Membership is growing rapidly and gives those to whom we are unable to offer full membership for the time being the opportunity to join groups and participate in all other activities, including our social events. Due to the restriction of numbers at St. Mary's Church Hall they cannot attend monthly meetings whilst Associate Members but it is hoped that full membership can be offered within a reasonable timescale.

We are fortunate to have two new Editors for future editions of your Newsletter. John and Judy have agreed to take over from Patricia and Peter, who will be moving out of the area.

I do hope you continue to enjoy your U3A. We are a living organisation, constantly moving forward, and your Committee is always willing to consider suggestions for improvement.

Long may our activities, study groups and each and every member continue to enrich our lives, entertain and sustain us.

Winnie

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Chairman's Column - April 2006



Since Christmas we have had three excellent speakers at Monthly Meetings, with many members commenting to me how well the meetings had gone. Roy's talk on script writing had many fondly remembering the television series of the fifties, sixties and seventies. Black Rod had a marvellous sense of history and a very nice sense of humour as he told tales of his years in office and of his office over the years, nay centuries. That was an occasion that will remain with us for a very long time. Finally, Bob Ogley told about the derring-do of wartime Biggin Hill in marvellous style.

As well as those meetings we had an excellent Quiz Night at the Old Barn Hall that owed everything to Bryan and Penny for the preparation of questions and presentation on the night and to Winnie and the social events team who produced a beautifully laid out hall and a very welcome meal at the half-time interval.

To accommodate the numbers expected for the talk by Black Rod we found it necessary to issue tickets and to make best use of the hall by putting all the tables in the side room or on the stage. This means we can now seat at least the 161 members that attended the Black Rod talk. On that occasion we were kindly loaned the extra chairs required by the Bookham Bowling Club. We also arranged to serve tea at the end of the meeting and used both serving hatches. This seemed to go well and for the moment this is the pattern we have adopted for future meetings.

In January we decided to admit Associate Members who would be able to join interest groups and take part in all activities except attend the Monthly Meetings. We now have 54 Associate Members as well as 342 Members. Since we started to admit Associate Members both Bookham and Leatherhead U3As have decided to consider the same option.

The committee has started to consider who might be willing to take on the role of Chairman when I stand down in November at the end of my three year term. Tony, Vice-Chairman has made the decision that he will not take on the role of Chairman, although he may be willing to serve in his current role for another year. This means we would be grateful for any volunteers who are willing to take a role on the committee, including that of Chairman in due course. Please do get in contact with me or with our Acting Secretary, Diana if you would be willing to serve in this way. The current committee can coopt up to two members who would like to be involved in keeping Fetcham U3A running successfully, as at present.

2006 Programme of Events for Your Diary

Tuesday 23rd May	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England	Colin Langley
Saturday, 24th June	 Strawberry Tea	The Grange Bookham
Tuesday 27th June	Fist Full of Feathers	Pauline Murphy
Tuesday 25th July	The History and Magic of Playing Cards	Ray Hampton
Tuesday 22nd August	Travels in Kashmir	Gail
Saturday 16 September	War Time Dance (ticket only event)	The Barn Hall
Tuesday 26th September	Mouth and Foot Painting	Tom Yendel
Tuesday 24th October	The Role of the Third Age Trust	Lin Jonas
Tuesday 28th November	AGM + The Story of Concorde	Peter Ling
Tuesday 12th December	Our Christmas Party (ticket only event) 2.30 - 5.00pm	Fetcham Village Hall

Social events are printed in bold

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE, God is watching. " Moving further along the lunch line at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Active and Proposed Groups and Their Leaders

Alpine Gardening	Alan	3 rd Monday at 14:30	V
Antiques & Collectables	Marilyn	3 rd Wednesday at 14:30	V
Art – Mixed Media (1)	Margaret	Alternate Thursdays at 10:30	F
Art – Mixed Media (2)	Janet	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14:30	V
Art Appreciation	Jenny	4 th Wednesday at 14:00	V
Aviation & Technology	Lawrence	Contact Lawrence for details	F
Ballroom Dancing (refresher)	Enid	Contact Enid for details	V
Book Club	Penny & Elaine	1 st Wednesday at 14:00	F
Bridge for Improvers	Group Leader needed		P
Bridge (with Lhead/Bookham)	Pam & John	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays at 10:00	V
Card Craft	Jan	Contact Jan for details	V
Computing	Tony	As advertised	V
Cookery	Diana	2 nd Tuesday at 12:00	V
Creative Writing	Reg (with Bookham)	Contact Reg for details	V
Current & Social Affairs	Alfred	2 nd Tuesday at 14:30	V
European History	Roger & Gail	2 nd Tuesday at 16:00	V
Explore London Walking (1)	Linda	1 st Monday at 9:45	F
Explore London Walking (2)	Tony & Joan	2 nd Monday at 9:45	V
Family History (1)	John	4 th Thursday at 14:30	F
Family History (2)	Neville	Contact Neville for details	V
French Conversation (1)	Anna	1 st & 3 rd Mondays at 14:15	F
French Conversation (2)	Lesley	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14:30	F
Gardening	Beryl & Joan	1 st Tuesday at 14:30	V
Gentle Movement (1)	Enid	Fridays at 09:30	F
Gentle Movement (2)	Enid	Mondays at 11:00	F
Gentle Movement (3)	Enid	Fridays at 11:00	V
German Conversation	Tom	Contact Tom for details	V
Industrial Heritage	Ian	3 rd Monday at 10:00	V
Investment Club	Tony & Ian	4 th Thursday evening	F
Local History	Keith	1 st Tuesday at 10:00	V
Mah Jong	Margaret	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays at 14:30	V
Music Appreciation (1)	Bryan & Penny	2 nd Wednesday at 19:45	F
Music Appreciation (2)	Group Leader needed		P
Needlework (1)	Mary	2 nd & 4 th Fridays at 10:00	F
Needlework (2)	Group Leader needed		P
Outings & Theatre Visits	Sheila	Various times and dates	A
Parchment Craft	Genie	Alternate Thursdays at 10:00	V
Play Reading	Winnie & Geoff	1 st Thursday at 14:30	V
Renaissance Art 1300-1500	Leslie - Bryan ,admin	Wednesdays at 14:30	F
Scrabble For Fun	Janet	3 rd Wednesday at 19:30	V
Singles Dining	Genie	Contact Genie for details	V
Spanish Conversation	Anna (with Bookham)	Alternate Mondays at 14:15	V
Sunday Lunch Club (1)	Geoff	1 st Sunday at 12:00	F
Sunday Lunch Club (2)	Fred	3 rd Sunday at 12:00	V
Walking (1)	Jo & Ernie	4 th Thursday morning	V
Walking (2)	Margaret	3 rd Monday at 09:30	V
Wine Appreciation (1)	Jo & Ernie	3 rd Tuesday at 14:30	F
Wine Appreciation (2)	Geoff	3 rd Tuesday at 14:30	F
Wine Appreciation (3)	Chris & Rosemary	2 nd Tuesday at 19:45	F
Wine Appreciation (4)	Bob & David	2 nd Wednesday at 20:00	F

1. To join a group please contact the group leader to check on vacancies and programme.
2. To join a proposed group speak to Enid , Groups Co-ordinator at the Monthly Meeting or contact the group leader.
3. To suggest new ideas for groups speak to Enid at the Monthly Meeting.
4. Would group leaders please keep Enid informed of any changes to the information given above.
5. Abbreviations: A = Places generally available, F = Full, P = Proposed, V = Vacancies.

Group News

Antiques & Collectables - Marilyn

It was very encouraging that 14 members were interested in forming this new group, which had its first meeting at the group leader's house on the 19 April. On this occasion we toasted the formation of the group with a glass of wine and discussed the topics we would like to cover over the coming year. There were items of interest displayed for members to view and comment on, followed by a short video quiz called "The Antique Challenge".

Diary dates:-



17 May - Clocks - a talk given by Gillian Davis where members are invited to bring a clock to the meeting.

21 June - Silverware (to be confirmed).

19 July - Visit to the Talbot Walk Antique Centre, Ripley.

16 August - Visit to Ewbank Fire Art and General Auctioneers, Send, to view items entered for the auction of Victorian and later furnishings.

20 September - Visit to Dorking antique shops.

18 October - Postcards/Cards.

Members outside our group will be welcome to join us in our visits/outings and are asked to contact the group leader before the event, in case the date and meeting times have been changed.

If anyone who has an interest or collection, about which they would be prepared to share their knowledge with the group, this would be most welcome.

Aviation & Technology Group - Lawrence

A small change for our Group is that in the winter months our regular meeting day will be on the second Wednesday of the month at 1400 hours.

Highlights of the Winter programme which were well attended were visits to the Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, to hear two lectures sponsored by the Royal Aeronautical Society, one on Hotel, Skylon and future developments by Alan Bond, director of Reaction Engines which led up to a proposal for a sub orbital aircraft capable of flying from Brussels to Sydney in four and a half hours and the other by a professor from Kingston University on the complexity of reaching aircraft design conclusions due to multitude of conflicting interests.



A recent Channel 4 documentary on the 'V' bombers and the development of the atom/H bombs in the 1950s was viewed on video by members giving significant historical facts only just released by the Government's 50 year secret information embargo. As well as showing the development of the Valiant, Vulcan and Victor 'V' bombers and deployment into squadron service, the film later showed the exploding of atomic weapons at Christmas Island in the Pacific where 6,000 servicemen from the army, navy and air force took part. Unbeknown to the viewers a brief scan to the Operations Room where high ranking service officials were assembled with the top scientists, revealed a young 19 year old Lawrence (yours truly) helping to plot the aircraft associated with the bomb drop (my only claim to fame!)

A visit to the RAF Hendon in March proved highly interesting and worthwhile, indeed I would highly recommend this to anyone who has not been there. The display of aircraft from the early years of aviation to the present day is remarkable and the presentation/documentation excellent. We stood under the wing and fuselage of an Avro Vulcan 'V' bomber and the dimensions and overall height of this delta wing jet aircraft are just 'awesome', in the true sense of the word. Facilities at the Museum are good and car parking/entrance fee free! This really has to be one of the world's top aviation museums.

Finally, our summer programme is available to non-member participants..

Art Appreciation - Jenny

During the winter most of us attended the wonderful lectures on Renaissance by Leslie (see page 8).

In April some of us went to the Chinese Exhibition at the Royal Academy, then later in the month we went to the National Gallery to view the paintings that Leslie had shown us.

In May we are going to either the British Library or the Dulwich Gallery.

In October we are going to Florence for 5 days to see more of the Renaissance. There are still places so if anyone would like to go, please get in touch with Jenny.

Computing Group - Tony

With the Digital camera course now behind us and everybody producing wonderful photographs it is time to think about getting together again and sharing those little secrets that keep our computers from crashing, or is that a thing of the past with XP !!

Two dates to put in your diaries for Computing Group meetings in the Waterfield Room at the Old Barn Hall Bookham, Tuesday 6th June and Tuesday 4th July, both meetings start at 7:00pm. Normal format for the meetings with time to tell us about any problems you are having (and who doesn't), hints and tips for getting more out of the programs and of course our Brains Trust with the resident experts. So come ready with something to test the team, or better still, say a few words about your favourite piece of software and tell us about your experiences with broadband. The Laptop and projector will be available to use. New members welcome.



Also please let me know what courses you want arranged in the Autumn either by e-mail or by adding your view to the course questionnaire available in the side room at the monthly meetings at St Mary's Church Hall.

Explore London Group (2) - Tony & Joan

Throughout the winter months we have been reasonably lucky with the weather and enjoyed several interesting walks covering the areas east and west of St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster, St James and Soho. We briefly visited several Wren churches, the Tate Gallery (for coffee and a comfort stop!) and found quite a few good value lunch breaks. Surprisingly London is not an expensive place to eat.



We now meet on the **fourth** Monday in each month but everything else remains the same. Cobham Railway Station between 9.30 and 9.45, in time to obtain your Travel Card and Parking Ticket. You do not need to let me know in advance unless you wish to join the party at Waterloo.

We will have a varied program for 2006 and will continue with the "secret" alleyways and passages in the West End and the City but a new theme will contain a literary element. We will always point out the interesting and historic Inns so that you know where to find refreshment should you make a future personal visit to London! The next visit will be Islington in May. We will try to stay away from the centre for the summer months and spend our time around the fringes.

Details of our Soho and Covent walks will soon appear on the website. They do not give all the information, just a flavour, but are detailed enough for you to follow yourself if you are ever at a loose end or wish to judge a walk before you consider joining either of the London Walking Groups.

Do not forget there are two groups – so keep your eye on both. The group is full but if you wish to go on the waiting list please let us know.

Family History Group 2 - Neville



This new group started in December 2005 and so far has had four meetings. At present we have six members of which three were newcomers to the hobby. We meet on the third Tuesday afternoon of each month and we would welcome new members. Initial advice in the form of instructional leaflets is given to novices and thereafter in general discussion. The use of a computer is not necessary as we vary between us in keeping our records manually or electronically.

French Conversation Groups - Anna and Lesley

Both groups have continued to meet twice a month and we have discussed a wide range of topics. The current unemployment situation and political demonstrations in France have provided much topical material for discussion as well as extending our vocabulary. We have also enjoyed hearing members' personal experiences in France, Australia, the Gambia, Malta, Thailand, and Costa Rica as well as their accounts of visits to art exhibitions, ballets, theatres and concerts. Other members have studied articles from the magazine *La vie outre-Manche* and have discussed the pros and cons of mobile phones, biographies of famous characters and the top ten personalities chosen in France.

Gardening Group - Joan and Beryl

Members of the Gardening Group held a meeting at Beryl's home in February to discuss this year's programme of outings. Unfortunately the first outing in March was subsequently cancelled due to lack of support, mainly because of the exceptionally cold weather. We did, however, have a successful visit to Winkworth Arboretum on April 4th and, although due to the late spring this year the trees and shrubs are behind schedule, we all enjoyed a pleasant walk with lovely views over the Surrey Hills. We finished off the afternoon with a nice hot 'cuppa' at nearby 'Secretts'.



Industrial Heritage Group – Ian

The group started the year with an excellent visit to the FAST museum at Farnborough and the Aldershot military Museum organised by Jo. Thirty two members and friends took part making it our biggest outing yet. Group membership has climbed to thirty five including a few from neighbouring U3As. The March meeting heard an excellent account of the racing and aviation history of Brooklands from Alfred and Doug. We have outings to Ironbridge in May and to sewage works, a pumping station and a recycling works more locally in the next few months – see the programme which is available at the Monthly Meeting or from Ian. Our meetings in the autumn will cover traditional wood working techniques, early broadcasting technology, overhauling a steam locomotive, Zeppelins and electricity generation. We also intend to have another heritage walk and lunch in the run up to Christmas.



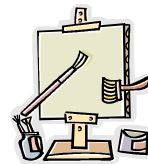
Investment Club - Tony and Ian

John took the honours in our Fantasy Share Portfolio competition with a rise of 49% over the year. What a shame we didn't take his tips more seriously, such is the benefit of hindsight. Most of the Club's eleven shares continue to perform well, as is expected with the Footsie hovering around the 6000 mark. After much discussion and heart searching over the past few months we finally bit the bullet and took some profits and, needless to say, were thankful for the takeover interest in ITV. However to stop us becoming too complacent we have just bought into one of those "exciting" biotechnology companies, so life should be interesting in the coming months.



Mixed Media Group 2 - Janet

We are a small group of 'hands on' would-be artists(!) discussing and painting water colours, pastels, wax resist etc. In the summer we will be going out of doors when the weather permits. We meet at 2.00pm on 1st and third Tuesdays of the month.



New members welcome. Please 'phone Janet to find out where we will be meeting.

Painting, Mixed Media - Margaret



Changing to oils after spending most of our first 3 years using water colours was quite a challenge though we managed some pictures of snow capped mountains, which some of you may have seen in the side room at the recent Monthly Meeting. But we did have problems in trying to achieve the effects we wanted. Snow kept falling off the mountains attached to the end of a paint brush, blue sky streaked with brush strokes, and so on. Help was needed. We arranged for tutors Terri and Paul to come to the Catholic Hall in Effingham to teach us the Bob Ross technique. It was a Bob Ross video which had inspired us to go for oils so they were just what we needed. With their help, ten of us produced, in 7 hours, the woodland scenes you can see in the photo attached.

Play-Reading Group - Geoff



We meet in a member's house in the afternoon of the first Thursday of each month in order to talk about, and then read through, a published play. Because of limited time, we usually read one-act plays or a play written for radio. None of us are expert "actors" and the more mistakes we make the more the enjoyment! We have a few spare places so why not give us a try? Gentlemen particularly welcome!

Renaissance Art 1300-1500 - Leslie - Bryan

After 20 weeks of sheer bliss the Renaissance Art lectures by Leslie B.A. (Cambs) finally drew to a close in March and 50 U3A members from Fetcham, Bookham and Leatherhead are now wondering what they are going to do on a Wednesday afternoon. Week in week out we all sat enthralled as Leslie extolled the works of Giotto, Lorenzetti, Donatello, Masaccio, Van Eyck, Duccio, Massina, Francesca, Raphael, Botticelli and Mantegna, to mention just a few.

We were reprimanded nearly every week for not asking enough questions but Leslie's description of the paintings, sculptures, mosaics, tapestries, carvings, inlay marquetry etc. was so complete that even when we thought of a question, he usually pre-empted it with the answer.

The most phenomenal thing about these lectures was that for 20 weeks Leslie never used any notes and when we did manage to get a question in, however remote, he always had the answer at his fingertips.

The series of lectures has been a labour of love for Leslie and after the last lecture we were pleased to present him with some vouchers for his efforts and hard work and a card signed by everyone who had attended. Leslie thanked everyone for the gift. Flowers and gift tokens were also presented to main helpers in the kitchen and those who prepared the halls every week and generally organised each lecture and handouts for every meeting.

We must also thank Roy who, as our projectionist for the whole period, was responsible for fine focussing each and every slide, which must have numbered well over 500 in total.

The enthusiasm these lectures created has prompted a U3A trip to Florence in the autumn organised by Jenny and Sheila (anyone interested please contact Jenny) and a Study Day on September 9th 2006 on Leslie's particular loves, Pompeii and Herculaneum at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall (forms available).

Spanish Conversation - Anna

Although this group is technically a Bookham U3A group we now have five members from Fetcham, including the current leader. Our two most recent members are from Fetcham U3A and include one who grew up in Argentina, so we often turn to him for advice, and to compare vocabulary and accents. A very useful addition! Both our new members have brought a new breath of life to the group which has been meeting for more than ten years. One couple has a daughter married to a Spaniard, one has lived in Spain, several regularly go to Spain on holiday or courses, and two of us have nearly had Spanish in-laws!



We use as a basis Sueños 2, which combines language study with cultural background to Hispanic countries. Most of us have some way to go before we are really fluent, but we get through! We shall shortly be trying out our linguistic skills in a Spanish restaurant.

Sunday Lunch Clubs - Geoff and Fred

Except when bank holidays intervene, one of the clubs (known as "the Lunch Bunch") meets on the first Sunday in the month and the other club meets on the third Sunday. We seldom travel more than five or six miles, where we gather at a carefully-selected pub or restaurant in order to enjoy good food in congenial company - with the preparation and clearing away done by others! The cost for two courses is usually between £12 and £14, including service, with drinks extra if you wish. Please contact either of the leaders for more information or to enquire about vacancies.



Thursday Morning Walking Group - Jo and Ernie



Our recent walks have taken us over Holmwood Common, round the Mole Gap and through fields and lanes from Brockham. We walk on the 4th Thursday morning each month and always end up at a local hostelry for those who wish.

Future walks planned are:

May 25th 4 miles - **Norbury Park**. Meet at 10am at the far end of Bocketts Farm car park. Mostly quite good underfoot with a few gentle inclines.
Refreshments afterwards in the Bocketts Farm tea room, if required.

June 22nd 4 miles - **South of Milton Heath**. Meet at 10am at Milton Heath car park. Just out of Dorking, on A25 towards Guildford, follow sign to 'Bury Hill Fisheries' on the left. Ignore park immediately on the right and go to 2nd park 100 yards on the left. One short, quite steep hill at the start of the walk, otherwise quite easy, with 2 stiles.

Refreshments afterwards at the Wotton Hatch, if required.

Continued over

Thursday Morning Walking Group - Jo and Ernie (continued)

July 27th 3.5 miles - **Polesden Lacey**. Meet at 10am at the far end of the main car park at Polesden Lacey. NB – National Trust cards may be needed. An undulating walk, with one fairly steep incline. *This walk to be followed by a picnic in the grounds, weather permitting.*

Additional details of all the above are available at monthly meetings, on the U3A website or from Jo & Ernie. Please note that walkers take part entirely at their own risk.

WINOS2 Autumn 2005 Trip to Bordeaux - Geoff

The rump of the group - being those members not engaged in round the world cruises - decided on a trip to the true centre of the wine making business. Most flew to Mérignac and took a shuttle to St Jean, the train station for Bordeaux. The comfortable hotel was situated near-by, with a view of the Gironde across two sets of dual carriageway.

Bordeaux is served by a superb tram system, which took us to the town centre in under 10 minutes. At its terminus, Quinconces, was the Maison de Vin where we booked a trip round the town on the Belle Epoque, a nineteen twenties Renault boneshaker, which effectively prevented post-lunch dozing. A trip to Entre-Deux-Mers was booked for the following day.

After an early lunch the next day we boarded a coach with a bilingual guide and headed off on a long trip around the eastern borders of Bordeaux, stopping on the way for a couple of dégustations and purchases. The trip was rather too long with information over-load, but we acquired a new appreciation of the wines of that often neglected region.

On our final full day we took a local bus to Blaye, passing through the vineyards of Bourg and Blaye. There is a well preserved Citadel by Vauban, where we had a noisy, alcoholic lunch with friends who live there, looking across the Gironde towards the Médoc. We paid a visit to the Maison de Vin and then went to Cars, a nearby village, to watch the vendage in full swing. The whole process is now fully mechanised with no pickers involved, just a large amount of noise and vehicular activity. After tea and sandwiches at the pool-side with our friends, we caught the bus back to Bordeaux, where it seemed to be time to prepare for another round of eating and drinking.



Two 'Winos 2' members trying to blend into their surroundings!

In summary, Bordeaux is an excellent place for a car free holiday. Public Transport is easy and available, as is access to caves and vineyards. Staff at the Maison de Vin are friendly and helpful and lay on a huge amount of educational matter. - www.bordeaux-tourisme.com.

Wine Appreciation Group 1 - Jo and Ernie

We started the year with a post Christmas meal at La Meridiana Restaurant in East Horsley. We enjoyed the 'Richard and Judy Wine Club' selection of New World wines in February and in March we had an excellent guest speaker who gave us six wines to taste. We also went to the 'Taste Wine and Dine' event at the Barn Hall in April, run by the St Nicholas Church Social and Events Committee, where all four Fetcham U3A Wine Appreciation Groups were represented!.



Bookham Village Day

Saturday June 17th 2006
at Old Barn Hall

Fetcham and Bookham U3As
will be sharing a stand this
year inside the Hall - come
and see our displays!

There's a wonderful family called Stein
There's Gert and there's Ep and there's Ein
Gert's poems are bunk
Ep's statues are junk
And nobody understands Ein!

*(With acknowledgements to Len Street, Science and
Technology Newsletter)*

Outings and Theatre Visits from April 2006

Price includes coach transport from Bookham from Lower Shott and St Nicholas Church

Outings

Monday 3 July	Godinton House & Gardens in Kent - guided tour of an interesting 600 year old family home and collection of porcelain, pictures and furniture. Time to explore and relax in the attractive gardens and enjoy tea and home-made cakes. Depart Lower Shott 9.25 (St Nicholas 9.30)	£21
Tuesday 1 August	Kew Gardens & Palace - timed entry to the newly renovated country home of George III, Queen Charlotte and 15 children. Options to explore Kew Gardens by Explorer Bus, on your own, or, if sufficient demand, with organised guide. Garden tour by request (extra cost) Depart Lower Shott 9.10 (St Nicholas 9.15)	£21
Thursday 14 September	Kelmscott Manor and Buscot Park - talk and tour of William Morris's summer home in Oxfordshire: After lunch (picnic or purchase) visit to 18th century Buscot Park (Nat Trust) to see the Faringdon family's collection and grounds which include a Harold Peto designed water garden. Depart Lower Shott 8.45 (St Nicholas 8.50)	£27

Theatre

Wednesday 14 June	June Puccini's LA BOHEME performed by Chisinau National Opera with the Ukrainian National Orchestra (sung in Italian and English surtitles) . Choice of stalls or front dress circle seats matinee at Woking	£27.50
Thursday 5 October	Northern Ballet Theatre's new production THE THREE MUSKETEERS . Choice of stalls or dress circle seats matinee at Woking	£20
Wednesday 15 November	GUYS & DOLLS ex West End production on tour. Woking matinee	£28

Travel

Arranged for us by Travel Editions 5 day visit to **VIENNA** - 12-16 July

Contact **Sheila** for further details or to book events. Send cheque (payable to **BOOKHAM U3A**) with booking form below to Sheila.

Events

No of places required Amount enclosed £.....
Please send separate cheque for each event made payable to BOOKHAM U3A

Please indicate coach pick up point - Lower Shott or St Nicholas Church

Name(s) and telephone number

Emergency telephone contact during outing

Central Surrey Region Study Days in 2006/2007

Friday 12th May 2006

Views on a Changing World – Iraq, Afghanistan & China

Gail & Roger, Mike, Phyllis, Jean & Ian, All U3A Speakers

Saturday 15th July 2006

Mozart: Salzburg & Vienna – A Celebration

Janet Canetty-Clarke, University Lecturer, Conductor & Pianist

Saturday 9th September 2006

Pompeii & Herculanium; Art & History

Leslie, WEA Lecturer

Friday 20th October 2006

Surrey Local History Highlights

Tim Richardson

Friday 17th November 2006

The Middle East; an Update

Dr Brian Beeley, Open University Worldwide

Friday 19th January 2007

The Truth Behind Some Health Myths

Professors Stanley Feldman, Vincent Marks & Rodney Cartwright & Dr Mike Smith

Friday 16th February 2007

Byron Study Day

Dr Chris Kenyon-Jones, Kings College London

Friday 16th March 2007

Picturing Women: Images of Women in European Art

Dr Katey Brown, Freelance Lecturer

Friday 18th May 2007

Music & Wellbeing

John Hursey, Open University

The study days are held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon except in July when the Banstead Community Centre will be used. Study days start at 9.30am with registration and finish at 4pm. The cost including coffee/tea and biscuits will be £9, with attendees bringing a packed lunch. Booking is necessary and forms should be available at Monthly Meetings. Jennifer is bookings secretary. Alison, Banstead, Arthur, Horley, Bryan, Fetcham, Ian, Fetcham, Jennifer, Kingston & Sheila, Bookham – Study Day

Committee. For latest information see also www.fetchamu3a.org.uk/studydays.htm.

How Can Trading Standards Help Us

Oh, we know all that; or so we thought. Nicola Smith, from Surrey County Council's Trading Standards Department proved how woefully unsure we appeared to be of our rights at our April meeting.

The Trading Standards Act covers item description, pricing, restricted sales to under 16s and restricted sales of alcohol to under 18s, food and agriculture, food labelling, use by dates and best before dates. Agriculture teams visit farms to check foodstuffs, weights and measure officers check safety of goods, for example toys. Consumer credit is checked that it complies with the law.

In 2004 the number of complaints received about house fittings and appliances, like builders and washing machines, was 35%, by far the highest. Next came transport at 18%, covering car repairs and the like whilst 15% covered personal services, such as clothes, mobile phones and contracts.

She spoke about doorstoppers. We sat up and took notice; we have all been at the receiving end of people knocking on our doors, trying to pressure us into buying something we don't want. Nicola explained that there is now a Rapid Reaction Team of two officers who are available, Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 pm. who will respond to anyone having a problem with a doorstopper and explained that, where possible, rogue traders are caught and prosecuted.

There were wise words of advice, such as always use a door-chain, although it is recognised that some modern doors are not suitable; always check identification; never agree to any work with a doorstep caller. Get two or three quotes, make sure you get a fixed price quote and ensure it is a quote and not an estimate. Ask questions, get references, negotiate price stages, check addresses and make certain there is a landline telephone number. A guarantee is only as good as the company giving it. If they go bust, so does the guarantee. Make sure they are insurance backed. If they go out of business, you still have some redress.

Photographs of a House of Horrors followed showed hidden pinprick cameras, in this case in a cereal packet, to catch the rogue traders. Of 66 traders invited to the house, one third failed to turn up and 1 in 5 attempted a rip-off

We began to realise there was a lot more to Trading Standards than we had first thought. But, Nicola hadn't finished with us yet. Her quiz focused on things we should know about our rights. It was surprising how little we DID know when it actually came to the answers!

The Buy with Confidence Scheme is an approved trader list, where terms and conditions are verified and names checked against the criminal record register. It can be accessed via buywithconfidence.co.uk or by telephoning 01372 371696/666. Care and Repair Schemes, run by local borough councils, enable the elderly or disabled to obtain free advice and assistance. Consumer Direct is funded by the Department of Trade and Industry and can be contacted by ringing 08454 040506.

There are always dishonest traders in all parts of the area. For information on possible scams in and around Fetcham you can obtain an e-mail alert by sending your e-mail address to david.bullen@surreycc.gov.uk. In due course all of these contact numbers will be included on our website under the Trading Standards information.

So much information, so little time to absorb it. But she had thought of that and brought along booklets for us to take away and read. Nicola had provided us with much upon which to reflect, for which we were most grateful.

ENGINEER'S CORNER

by Wendy Cope

Why isn't there an Engineers' Corner in Westminster Abbey? In Britain we've always made more fuss of a ballad than a blueprintHow many children dream of becoming great engineers?

Advertisement placed in The Times by the Engineering Council -

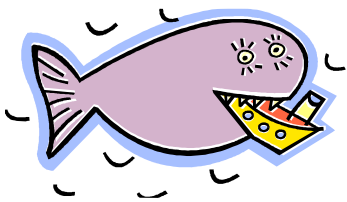
We make more fuss of ballads than of blueprints –
That's why so many poets end up rich,
While engineers scrape by in cheerless garrets.
Who needs a bridge or dam? Who needs a ditch?

Whereas the person who can write a sonnet
Has got it made. It's always been the way.
For everybody knows that we need poems
And everybody reads them everyday.

Yes, life is hard if you choose engineering –
You're sure to need another job as well;
You'll have to plan your projects in the evenings
Instead of going out. It must be hell.

While well-heeled poets ride around in Daimlers,
You'll burn the midnight oil to earn a crust,
With no hope of a statue in the Abbey
With no hope, even, of a modest bust.

No wonder small boys dream of writing couplets
And spurn the bike, the lorry and the train.
There's far too much encouragement for poets –
That's why this country's going down the drain.



A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah". The teacher asked "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied "Then you ask him".

Committee Members and significant others

Chairman	Ian
Vice-Chairman	Tony C
Treasurer	Bryan
Secretary	Diana
Membership Secretary	Brenda
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	Tony R
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Member	Graham
Welfare of Members	Jo
Tea Organiser	Mavis
Social Events	Winnie Yvonne
Outings/Theatre Visits	Sheila
Newsletter Editors Email:	John & Judy

The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month before the Monthly Meeting. If you have any items you would like discussed please contact Diana in time to get it on the agenda.

The next edition is due out in September 2006. Please email your copy to John or Judy by 29th August or hand to them at the August meeting.